

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

Claims 1 through 38: Cancelled

39. (Currently Amended) A grinding apparatus for grinding individual clothing elements of a textile machine, the clothing elements having a head portion defined by a bend or knee in each element, said grinding device comprising:

a first set of grinding elements mounted on a support so as to extend outwardly therefrom at essentially a right angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of said support, said elements having a length and size so as to penetrate between the clothing elements to grind lateral flank portions of the clothing elements; and

a second set of grinding elements separate from said first set of grinding elements and extending from said support at essentially a right angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of said support, said second set of grinding elements extending a lesser distance than said first set of grinding elements, said second set of grinding elements disposed and having a size so as not to extend between the clothing elements but to contact and grind front face sides of the clothing elements.

40. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 39, wherein said support is a rotatable roller member.

41. (Previously Amended) A grinding apparatus for grinding individual clothing elements of a textile machine, the clothing elements having a head portion defined by a bend or knee in each element, said grinding device comprising:

a first set of grinding elements mounted on a support so as to extend outwardly therefrom, said elements having a length and size so as to penetrate between the clothing elements to grind lateral flank portions of the clothing elements;

a second set of grinding elements extending from said support a lesser distance than said first set of grinding elements, said second set of grinding elements disposed and having a size so as not to extend between the clothing elements but to contact and grind front face sides of the clothing elements; and

wherein said first and second sets of grinding elements are individual bristle-like elements extending radially from said rotatable roller member.

42. (Previously Amended) The grinding apparatus as in claim 41, wherein said roller member and bristle-like grinding elements form a brush, said second set of bristle-like grinding elements having a length such that said brush can rest on the front faces of said clothing elements without said second set of grinding elements entering between said clothing elements.

43. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 39, wherein at least one of said first and second sets of grinding elements are grinding stones.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The grinding apparatus as in claim 39,~~ A grinding apparatus for grinding individual clothing elements of a textile machine, the clothing elements having a head portion defined by a bend or knee in each element, said grinding device comprising:

a first set of grinding elements mounted on a support so as to extend outwardly therefrom, said elements having a length and size so as to penetrate between the clothing elements to grind lateral flank portions of the clothing elements;

a second set of grinding elements extending from said support a lesser distance than said first set of grinding elements, said second set of grinding elements disposed and having a size so as not to extend between the clothing elements but to contact and grind front face sides of the clothing elements; and

wherein said second set of grinding elements comprise a finer graining than said first set of grinding elements.

45. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 39, further comprising a suction device disposed to draw a suction in the vicinity of the point of grinding between said grinding elements and the clothing elements to remove particles resulting from the grinding.

46. (Previously Amended) The grinding apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said suction device has a width so as to take a suction over the working width of a set of moving flats on which the clothing elements are arranged.

47. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 39, wherein the textile machine is a carding machine and the individual clothing elements are arranged on a set of moving flats, said apparatus removably attachable to a frame of the carding machine for grinding the set of flats.

48. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 39, further comprising a control system configured to intermittently engage and operate said apparatus during specific time periods of operation of the textile machine.

49. (Previously Presented) The grinding apparatus as in claim 48, wherein said control system operates said apparatus during said time periods to grind the clothing elements a predetermined number of times during each time period.

50. (Previously Amended) A grinding apparatus for grinding individual clothing elements of a textile machine, the clothing elements having a head portion defined by a bend or knee in each element, said grinding device comprising:

a first set of grinding elements mounted on a support so as to extend outwardly therefrom, said elements having a length and size so as to penetrate between the clothing elements to grind lateral flank portions of the clothing elements;

a second set of grinding elements extending from said support a lesser distance than said first set of grinding elements, said second set of grinding elements disposed and having a size so as not to extend between the clothing elements but to contact and grind front face sides of the clothing elements; and

wherein said apparatus is portable and mountable to different textile machines, said apparatus further comprising a supporting holder configured for being removably mountable to a frame component of different textile machines.

Claims 51 through 60: Cancelled

61. (Previously Presented) A revolving flat card textile machine having a plurality of flats with individual clothing elements extending therefrom having a head portion defined by a bend or knee in each element, said flats conveyed in a working revolving path, said machine further comprising a grinding apparatus for grinding said individual clothing elements, said grinding device comprising:

a first set of grinding elements mounted on a support so as to extend outwardly therefrom, said elements having a length and size so as to penetrate between said clothing elements to grind lateral flank portions of said clothing elements; and

a second set of grinding elements extending from said support a lesser distance than said first set of grinding elements, said second set of grinding elements disposed and having a size so as not to extend between said clothing elements but to contact and grind front face sides of said clothing elements.

62. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, further comprising a cleaning position disposed after said grinding device in the moving direction of said flats.

63. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein a relative speed difference is provided between said grinding elements and said revolving flats that is generally less than about 15 m/sec.

64. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein said revolving flats and said grinding elements move in a same relative direction.

65. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein said support is a rotatable roller member.

66. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 65, wherein said first and second sets of grinding elements are individual bristle-like elements extending radially from said rotatable roller member.

67. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 65, wherein said roller member and bristle-like grinding elements form a brush, said second set of bristle-like grinding elements having a length such that said brush can rest on the front faces of said clothing elements without said second set of grinding elements entering between said clothing elements.

68. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein at least one of said first and second sets of grinding elements are grinding stones.

69. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein said second set of grinding elements comprise a finer graining than said first set of grinding elements.

70. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, further comprising a suction device disposed to draw a suction in the vicinity of the point of grinding between said grinding elements and said clothing elements to remove particles resulting from the grinding.

71. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 70, wherein said suction device has a width so as to take a suction over the working width of said flats.

72. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, further comprising a control system configured to intermittently engage and operate said grinding apparatus during specific time periods of operation of said card machine.

73. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 72, wherein said control system operates said grinding apparatus during said time periods to grind said clothing elements a predetermined number of times during each time period.

74. (Previously Presented) The card machine as in claim 61, wherein said grinding apparatus is portable and mountable to other card machines.